

Editorial

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The 9th International Conference on Engineering, Project, and Production Management (EPPM2018) constitutes another step in establishing EPPM conferences as globally recognised fora where researchers and practitioners meet to discuss current phenomena, emerging trends, and future directions in engineering, project and production management. The conference was hosted by the Department of Construction Management, Nelson Mandela University, and the Department of Built Environment, Central University of Technology in Cape Town, South Africa from 24 to 26 September 2018.

The proceedings of this year's conference include 43 papers that have been carefully selected through a rigorous double-blind review process. These papers address theories and applications of engineering management, project management, and production management as well as the integration of these areas. The papers present a wide range of approaches and methodologies adopted to answer research questions that emerge in the fields covered by the conference. The topics reflect the transformation of engineering and management that is taking place under the umbrella of Industry 4.0. The authors are aware of an increasingly intimate relation of products and services, blending of the real and virtual and the growing complexity of stakeholder interactions in engineering and business projects. The conference participants tackled critical problems in engineering, manufacturing, logistics and technology management related to innovation, performance, productivity, maintenance, quality, risk, safety, sustainability, skills, and competences.

All the papers in the conference proceedings were double-blind reviewed by members of the International Scientific Committee. This process entailed detailed reading of the papers, reporting of comments to authors, modification of papers by authors, and re-evaluation of the revised papers. Manuscripts were checked for plagiarism, proofread, and professionally edited to ensure quality of the contents. The role of the Scientific Chairs was to ensure that the final accepted papers incorporated the reviewers' comments. Of the 168 abstracts originally received, 43 papers were finally accepted at the conference, representing an acceptance rate of 25%.

In recognition of an outstanding contribution to science, the Best Paper Award recognises a paper of exceptional quality. At the initial stage, nine contributions were selected based on the suggestions from the International Scientific Committee members who reviewed all papers submitted to the conference. Thereafter, the Best Paper Final Review Selection Panel headed by Dr Kassim Gidado evaluated the selected papers in terms of their

contribution to the body of knowledge, quality of argument, and quality of presentation. As a result, the paper entitled *An investigation of Mixed Reality Technology for Onsite Construction Assembly* by Salman Azhar and Austin DeValle from Auburn University, USA was chosen for the EPPM2018 Best Paper Award.

Sincere appreciation is due to all authors, members of the International Scientific Committee, Keynote Speakers and the Organizing Committee for their great effort. We would also like to express our deep gratitude to the editorial support team (Ewa Chodakowska, Justyna Kozłowska, Julia Siderska, Krzysztof Stepaniuk, Dariusz Surel, Danuta Szpilko, Katarzyna Szum, and Tomasz Trochimczuk), Ms Leandra Jordaan, the conference website administrator, and Mrs Mariana Botes, the conference secretary. It is their contribution that makes this conference an important event that strengthens the interdisciplinary links between engineering and management.

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Keynotes

Jeremy Gibberd

Smarter and More Sustainable Built Environments in a Changing World

Pierre Voges

Special Purpose Vehicles as a Model for Competitive Economic Development in South African Cities

Keith Cattell

The psychological well-being of construction professionals

Austin DeValle and Salman Azhar

An Investigation of Mixed Reality Technology for On-site Construction Assembly